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O/26659-63

U KETHARA ATTACKS GOVERNMENT; LIKENS FATE OF  
NE WIN TO DIEM AND KENNEDY

[44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)]

[redacted] 26 Nov 63

-- 1771/NA 4

[GIST]<sup>a</sup>

**FOR EVALUATION**

The Shweman Sayadaw U KETHARA<sup>b</sup> spoke at a religious ceremony which was held from 1900 hours to 2115 hours on 25 November. The ceremony was sponsored by U PAW E<sup>b</sup> and took place in the [4G] Sunshwehlezu quarter which is in the jurisdiction of the Saingdaw [quarter] police station in Mandalay. Approximately 2500 people attended, including some 300 monks. The text of the sermon concerned the attainment of Nirvana. There was no (B val elaboration) on references made to the arrest of CPB/WF members, South Viet Nam, or the Kennedy assassination. However, in connection with the talks between the government and the insurgents, the speaker did

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PAGE 1 of 3 PAGE(s)

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2X/O  T133-63

O/26659-63

PAGE 1 of 3 PAGE(s)

~~SECRET SABRE~~

~~SECRET SABRE~~

2X/O/  T133-63

[44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)]

~~SECRET~~

O/26659-63

say he had come to the conclusion that the government was right since the original groups of insurgents were not accomplishing anything with their demands for statehood.

The Shwe Mann Sayadaw said he was about to set to work and that on a (B val holy day) in the month of Tabaung<sup>C</sup> he would deliver a sermon which would deal with [XM] the danger of communism and how it seeks to thwart religion. He said he would also speak on how the Revolutionary Government [3G] (B val misrules) the people and how, once the people have been alerted, the government will be destroyed.

The monk continued by saying that as it has been with the monks who unhesitatingly banded together and put a stop to the trouble over the four pagoda colonnades and the (B val number) 45 petrol station, the people likewise will be able to put an end to their troubles. And today, as it has been with world leaders like NGO DINH DIEM and KENNEDY, Bogyoke NE WIN likewise will tremble with fear.

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 2 of 3 PAGE(s)

PAGE 2 of 3 PAGE(s)

~~SECRET SABRE~~

~~SECRET SABRE~~

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

2X/0/  T133-63

~~SECRET~~

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After apparently making a reference to an historical example, in which a king was driven from his country by the people, the Shweman Sayadaw concluded by saying that in order to attain Nirvana one should follow the precepts of the eight-goods.

- a. Portion of text; remainder irrelevant.
- b. Identified elsewhere as a lumber merchant.
- c. Twelfth month of the Burmese year, roughly equivalent to March.

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PAGE 3 of 3 PAGE(s)

PAGE 3 of 3 PAGE(s)

~~SECRET SABRE~~